

(b) STRATEGY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State, in coordination with the Secretary of Homeland Security and the heads of other relevant Federal departments and agencies, shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a strategy for the safe processing abroad of nationals of Afghanistan described in subsection (a).

(2) ELEMENTS.—The strategy required by paragraph (1) shall include a detailed plan—

(A) to prioritize for evacuation from Afghanistan nationals of Afghanistan described in subsection (a);

(B) to provide for expedited initial security vetting for such nationals of Afghanistan, to be conducted remotely before their departure from Afghanistan;

(C) to facilitate, after such vetting, the rapid departure from Afghanistan by air charter and land passage of such nationals of Afghanistan who satisfy the requirements of such vetting;

(D) to provide letters of support, diplomatic notes, and other documentation, as appropriate, to ease transit for such nationals of Afghanistan;

(E) to engage governments of relevant countries to better facilitate evacuation of such nationals of Afghanistan;

(F) to disseminate frequent updates to such nationals of Afghanistan and relevant nongovernmental organizations with respect to evacuation from Afghanistan;

(G) to identify and establish sufficient locations outside Afghanistan and the United States that will accept such nationals of Afghanistan during case processing (including during the processes of vetting and establishing the eligibility of such nationals of Afghanistan before their travel to the United States, which shall include any in-person interview required for full adjudication of a case and, in the case of a special immigrant visa, issuance of such visa) for—

(i) the special immigrant visas described in paragraph (1) of subsection (a); or

(ii) referral to, and acceptance for resettlement in the United States by, the United States Refugee Admissions Program described in paragraph (2) of that subsection;

(H) to identify necessary resource, personnel, and equipment requirements to increase capacity to better support such nationals of Afghanistan and reduce their application processing times, while ensuring strict and necessary security vetting, including, to the extent practicable, by allowing such nationals of Afghanistan to receive referrals to the United States Refugee Admissions Program while they are still in Afghanistan so as to initiate application processing more expeditiously; and

(I) to provide for relocation outside Afghanistan to third countries for nationals of Afghanistan described in subsection (a) who are unable to successfully complete security vetting and application processing to establish eligibility to travel to the United States.

(3) FORM.—The strategy required by paragraph (1) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

(c) MONTHLY REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and monthly thereafter until December 31, 2022, the Secretary of State, in coordination with the Secretary of Homeland Security and the heads of other relevant Federal departments and agencies, shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on efforts to support nationals of Afghanistan described in subsection (a).

(2) ELEMENTS.—Each report required by paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) The number of nationals of Afghanistan referred to the United States Refugee Admissions Program as Priority 1 and Priority 2 refugees since August 29, 2021.

(B) An assessment of whether each such refugee—

(i) remains in Afghanistan; or

(ii) is outside Afghanistan.

(C) With respect to nationals of Afghanistan who have applied for referral to the United States Refugee Program, the number of applications that—

(i) have been approved;

(ii) have been denied; and

(iii) are pending adjudication.

(D) The number of nationals of Afghanistan who have pending applications for special immigrant visas described in subsection (a)(1), disaggregated by the special immigrant visa processing steps completed with respect to such individuals.

(E) A description of the measures taken to implement the strategy under subsection (b).

(d) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DEFINED.—In this section, the term “appropriate committees of Congress” means—

(1) the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on the Judiciary, the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs; and the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate; and

(2) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on the Judiciary, the Committee on Homeland Security, and the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives.

SA 4862. Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Ms. ERNST) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3867 proposed by Mr. REED to the bill H.R. 4350, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2022 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle B of title XII, add the following:

SEC. 1216. STATUS OF WOMEN AND GIRLS IN AFGHANISTAN.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) Since May 2021, the escalation of violent conflict in Afghanistan has forcibly displaced an estimated 655,000 civilians, and 80 percent of those forced to flee are women and children.

(2) Since regaining control of Afghanistan in August 2021, the Taliban have taken actions reminiscent of their brutal rule in the late 1990s, including by cracking down on protesters, detaining and beating journalists, reestablishing the Ministry for the Promotion of Virtue and Prevention of Vice, and requiring women to study at secondary schools and universities in gender-segregated classrooms while wearing Islamic attire.

(3) Until the Taliban assumed control of the country in August 2021, the women and girls of Afghanistan had achieved much since 2001, even as insecurity, poverty, underdevelopment, and patriarchal norms continued to limit their rights and opportunities in much of Afghanistan.

(4) Through strong support from the United States and the international community—

(A) female enrollment in public schools in Afghanistan continued to increase through 2015, with an estimated high of 50 percent of school age girls attending; and

(B) by 2019—

(i) women held political leadership positions, and women served as ambassadors; and

(ii) women served as professors, judges, prosecutors, defense attorneys, police, military members, health professionals, journalists, humanitarian and developmental aid workers, and entrepreneurs.

(5) Efforts to empower women and girls in Afghanistan continue to serve the national interests of Afghanistan and the United States because women are sources of peace and economic progress.

(6) With the return of Taliban control, the United States has little ability to preserve the internationally recognized human rights of women and girls in Afghanistan, and those women and girls may again face the intimidation and marginalization they faced under the last Taliban regime.

(7) Women and girls in Afghanistan are again facing gender-based violence, including—

(A) forced marriage;

(B) intimate partner and domestic violence;

(C) sexual harassment;

(D) sexual violence, including rape; and

(E) emotional and psychological violence.

(8) Gender-based violence has always been a significant problem in Afghanistan and is expected to become more widespread with the Taliban in control.

(9) Prior to the Taliban takeover in August 2021, approximately 7,000,000 people in Afghanistan lacked or had limited access to life-saving health services as a result of inadequate public health coverage, weak health systems, and conflict-related interruptions in care.

(10) Women and girls faced additional challenges, as their access to prenatal, childbirth, and postpartum care was limited due to a shortage of female medical staff, cultural barriers, stigma and fears of reprisals following sexual violence, or other barriers to mobility, including security fears.

(11) Only approximately 50 percent of pregnant women and girls in Afghanistan deliver their children in a health facility with a professional attendant, which increases the risk of complications in childbirth and preventable maternal mortality.

(12) Food insecurity in Afghanistan is also posing a variety of threats to women and girls, as malnutrition weakens their immune systems and makes them more susceptible to infections, complications during pregnancy, and risks during childbirth.

(13) With the combined impacts of ongoing conflict, drought, and COVID-19, Afghan households increasingly resort to child marriage, forced marriage, and child labor to address food insecurity and other effects of extreme poverty.

(14) In Afghanistan, the high prevalence of anemia among adolescent girls reduces their ability to survive childbirth, especially when coupled with high rates of child marriage and forced marriage and barriers to accessing prenatal and childbirth services.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) since 2001, organizations and networks promoting the empowerment of women and girls have been important engines of social, economic, and political development in Afghanistan;

(2) any future political order in Afghanistan should secure the political, economic, and social gains made by Afghan women and work to increase the equal treatment of women and girls in society;

(3) respecting the internationally recognized human rights of all people is essential to securing lasting peace and sustainable development in Afghanistan;

(4) in cooperation with international partners, the United States must endeavor to

preserve the hard-won gains made in Afghanistan during the past two decades, particularly as related to the social, economic, and political empowerment of women and girls in society;

(5) the continued provision of humanitarian assistance in Afghanistan should be targeted toward the most vulnerable, including for the protection, education, and well-being of women and girls;

(6) immediate and ongoing humanitarian needs in Afghanistan can only be met by a humanitarian response that includes formal agreements between local nongovernmental organizations, including women-led organizations, and international partners that promotes the safe access and participation of female staff at all levels and across functional roles among all humanitarian actors; and

(7) a lack of aid would exacerbate the current humanitarian crisis and harm the well-being of women and girls in Afghanistan.

(C) POLICY OF THE UNITED STATES REGARDING THE RIGHTS OF WOMEN AND GIRLS OF AFGHANISTAN.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—It is the policy of the United States—

(A) to continue to support the internationally recognized human rights of women and girls in Afghanistan following the withdrawal of the United States Armed Forces from Afghanistan, including through mechanisms to hold all parties publicly accountable for violations of such rights against women and girls and violations and abuses of international humanitarian law;

(B) to strongly oppose any weakening of the political or economic rights of women and girls in Afghanistan;

(C) to use the voice and influence of the United States at the United Nations to promote, respect, and uphold the internationally recognized human rights of women and girls in Afghanistan, including the right to safely work, including outside the home;

(D) to identify individuals who violate the internationally recognized human rights of women and girls in Afghanistan, such as by committing acts of murder, lynching, and grievous domestic violence against women, and to press for bringing those individuals to justice; and

(E) to systematically consult with Afghan women and girls (including women and girls who are part of the Afghan diaspora community), including through women-led organizations and networks, on their needs and priorities in the development, implementation, and monitoring of humanitarian action, diplomatic efforts, and foreign assistance activities.

(d) HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE AND AFGHAN WOMEN.—The Secretary of State, in coordination with the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, should work to ensure that Afghan women are employed and enabled to work in the delivery of humanitarian assistance in Afghanistan, to the extent practicable.

(e) REPORT ON WOMEN AND GIRLS IN AFGHANISTAN.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and every 180 days thereafter through 2024, the Secretary of State shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress, and make available to the public, a report that includes the following:

(A) An assessment of, including recommendations on, the status of women and girls in Afghanistan following the departure of United States and partner military forces, including with respect to the access of such women and girls to primary and secondary

education, primary and emergency health care, and legal protections and status.

(B) An assessment of the political and civic participation of women and girls in Afghanistan.

(C) An assessment of the employment of women in both the public and private sectors in Afghanistan.

(D) An assessment of the prevalence of gender-based violence in Afghanistan and the status of access to justice and other dispute resolution mechanisms to redress incidents of gender-based violence.

(E) A report on funds for United States foreign assistance obligated or expended during the period covered by the report to advance gender equality and the internationally recognized human rights of women and girls in Afghanistan, including funds directed toward local organizations promoting such rights of women and girls, that includes the following:

(i) The amounts awarded to prime recipients and subrecipients for such purposes during the reporting period.

(ii) A description of each program for which such funds are used for such purposes.

(2) ASSESSMENT.—

(A) INPUT.—The assessment described in paragraph (1)(A) shall include the input of—

(i) Afghan women and girls;

(ii) Afghan and international organizations employing and working with Afghan women and girls; and

(iii) Afghan and international humanitarian organizations, including faith-based organizations, providing assistance in Afghanistan.

(B) SAFETY AND CONFIDENTIALITY.—In carrying out the assessment described in paragraph (1)(A), the Secretary shall, to the maximum extent practicable, ensure the safety and confidentiality of personal information of each individual who provides information from within Afghanistan.

(3) DEFINITION OF APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—In this subsection, the term “appropriate committees of Congress” means—

(A) the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. President, I have 5 requests for committees to meet during today's session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority Leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

The Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, November 30, 2021, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, November 30, 2021, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

The Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, November 30, 2021, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, November 30, 2021, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing on a nomination.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION, PRODUCT SAFETY, AND DATA SECURITY

The Subcommittee on Consumer Protection, Product Safety, and Data Security of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, November 30, 2021, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. HAWLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Lieutenant Colonel John Meyer be granted floor privileges for the remainder of the Congress.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection it is so ordered.

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2021

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, finally, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 12 noon, Wednesday, December 1; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; and that upon the conclusion of morning business, the Senate resume consideration of H.R. 4350, the National Defense Authorization Act.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL TOMORROW

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 8:08 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, December 1, 2021, at 12 noon.

CONFIRMATION

Executive nomination confirmed by the Senate November 30, 2021:

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

COREY HINDERSTEIN, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR FOR DEFENSE NUCLEAR NONPROLIFERATION, NATIONAL NUCLEAR SECURITY ADMINISTRATION.